



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/624,144	07/21/2000	Jae Kyum Kim	K-195	4437

7590

02/04/2002

The Law Offices of  
Fleshner & Kim  
PO Box 221200  
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200

EXAMINER

COE, PHILIP R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1746

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2002

#4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/624,144

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Philip R. Coe

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 1746

1. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The wording "a side wall \_ \_ \_ to be cylindrical" (claim 1, lines 2-3) is vague; in this regard, wording such as -a cylindrical side wall extending from a periphery of the rear wall to the opened front- is preferred. It is not clear to what "that" (claim 1, line 4) refers. In line 7 of claim 1 "passed" should be -passing- for consistency. There is no antecedent basis for "the motor" (claim 1, line 8). It is not clear exactly what constitutes "a crown form" (claim 1, line 10) or a "back-yoke" (claim 1, line 13). It is not clear from the claim language exactly what constitutes the "one unit" (claim 2). There is no specific basis for "an inner circumference" (claim 4) since the bearing housing has not been claimed in such a manner that an inner circumference would be necessarily be defined by its structure. The wording "from being fallen off" (claim 4) is vague. Claim 5 should depend from claim 4 in order to provide proper basis for features in claim 5. Wording such as "among the bearings" (claim 5, lines 3-4) is vague. It is not clear to what "to outside" (claim 6) is referring. It is not clear what constitutes "a supporter" (claim 7) or "a setting surface" (claim 9). Features such as "a sidewall" (claim 9), "a cabinet" (claims 17 and 18, line 2), "an inner circumference" (claim 17, line 4), "a drum" (claim 17, line 5), "the drum rear wall" (claim 17, line 6), "a motor" (claim 18, line 5), and "a rear wall" (claim 18, line 8) that are only inferentially set forth should be positively claimed in order to completely and accurately define the invention. It should be clearly set forth to which previously claimed rear wall "the rear wall" (claim 9, line 5, and claim 10, line 2) is referring. It is not clear what constitutes "an outer side" (claim 15). It is not clear with respect to what the direction is "circumferential" (claim 15). In line 1 of claims 17, 18, and 20 -a- should be inserted before

Art Unit: 1746

“driving”. It is not clear grammatically with respect to what “having \_ \_ \_ wall” (claim 17, line 6) is referring. The expression “inserted to be built” (claim 20, line 3) is vague. The above are exemplary only. All of the claims should be reviewed and revised for compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 7, 9, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabeya et al. Noting that “a thickness” of the rear wall of Kabeya et al. is thicker than the thickness of the side wall at least somewhere and that Kabeya et al. is considered to have a stator “of crown form”, Kabeya et al. discloses all of the features of claim 1 except for the “metal” bearing housing. However, it is well known that such bearing housings are made of metal, and it would have been obvious to have provided Kabeya et al. with such so that the bearing housing will last. Any structure located between the rear wall of the tub and the stator reads on the “supporter” of claim 7. The features of claims 9 and 16 are clearly disclosed by Kabeya et al.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabeya et al. in view of Rode et al. Rode et al. discloses the use of aluminum for at least the rotor 15 and since the bearing housing is similarly crosshatched, then aluminum is at least suggested for the bearing housing. Accordingly, it would have been obvious in view of Rode et al. to have provided

Art Unit: 1746

Kabeya et al. with a bearing housing per claim 3 in order to have a bearing housing that will last and that is somewhat lightweight.

5. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabeya et al. in view of Shrippek et al. ('422). It would have been obvious in view of Skrippek et al. to have provided Kabeya et al. with the features of claims 4 and 5 in order to secure the bearings in place.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabeya et al. in view of Skrippek ('379). It would have been obvious in view of Skrippek to have provided Kabeya et al. with a rotor formed of steel so that the rotor will last.

7. Claims 2, 6, and 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

9. Neumann and Skrippek et al. ('113) are cited for further teachings of drive devices for horizontally mounted washing machines which drive devices include a stator and a rotor.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip R. Coe whose telephone number is (703) 308-1273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, first Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy P. Gulakowski, can be reached on (703) 308-4333. The fax phone numbers

Art Unit: 1746

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Philip R. Coe  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1746

prc  
January 29, 2002